

SABIN & SONS' AMERICAN BIBLIOPOLIST.

A Literary Register and Monthly Catalogue of Old and New Books,
and Repository of Notes and Queries.

Vol. I.

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No. 6.

The design of The American Bibliopolist is to place before the book buying public, a continuous Register of the many Additions the undersigned are constantly making to their Stock: Lists of New Publications, English and American; Notices of the Sales of Books at Auction, and Reports concerning important items; Useful Hints and Suggestions as to the best Editions, etc.; Lists of Books wanted to purchase, and Incidental Discussions on Matters appertaining to Books in general.

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Auction Sales.

In the BIBLIOPOLIST for March, appeared some notice of the sale of the "Maximilian Library," in which we had occasion to quote Mr. Trubner's remarks on the same subject. This has produced the following in No. 45 of the Record:—

"THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE EMPEROR MAXIMILIAN, ONCE MORE.—Mr. Sabin takes exception in No. 3, of his 'American Bibliopolist,' to the notice of the Andrade sale, printed in No. 42, of our Record, without reason, as we think. He questions, in the first instance, the correctness of our statement, to the effect that the library had been put under the hammer by Maximilian's relatives. According to his information, the library was bought by two bookselling firms, one at Augsburg, the other at Leipzig, the former sold its interest to a Paris bookseller, and the two combined in cataloguing their purchases and *managing* the sale. We can assure Mr. Sabin that we have known throughout all these particulars of the purchase, and even a little more—and we still maintain that Maximilian's Imperial relatives have, indirectly, of course, put the library under the hammer by permitting it to be sold to booksellers, whose intention to dispose of the collection by auction was known to them

from the very first. The other point cavilled at by Mr. Sabin is the following. Having watched the sale very carefully, and having found that the rarest books of the 'Collection' had been bought by Europeans, we gave it as our opinion that the demand in Europe for 'Americana' was very eager, and that Europeans were willing to pay higher prices for them than the Americans themselves. Mr. Sabin meets this plain statement, of a fact, with the assertion that American competition, although it had not secured the rarest books, had raised them to the high prices they had brought at the sale. Of course, American competition did its work, but the fact remains, and is admitted by Mr. Sabin himself, that the rarest books were secured, and the highest prices paid, by Europeans. Where then is the difference? On all the other points, regarding the Andrade sale, Mr. Sabin seems to agree with us—indeed so much so that our remarks on the Catalogue of the Andrade sale, printed in the January number of our Record, reappear almost verbatim in his article."

We are pleased to have Mr. Trubner confirm our statement as to the sale of the collection to two "bookselling firms," and we can only express our surprise that, knowing this fact, "and even a little more," he did not favour us with the information. How this library could have been "put under

the hammer by Maximilian's relatives," and yet at the same time be sold for the "benefit of two bookselling firms," who actually *bought* it as a speculation, passes our comprehension.

The disposal of the books after their purchase by the two "bookselling firms" seems to have been under no other restriction than the will of the owners. As a proof of this, one of the two firms sold out its interest to a third speculator.

After this it became a matter of interest to bring the two portions of the library together and sell the whole at auction. This was done, and the profit resulting from the sale went into the pockets of the speculators and not into those of the "imperial relatives," who, according to Mr. Trubner, "put it under the hammer."

Perhaps the "little more" would point to Andrade as the person who sold the books to the two firms, thus leaving the agency of Maximilian's relatives entirely out of the question—unless, possibly, Mr. Trubner supposes Andrade to be a *very distant* relative.

With regard to "the other point cavilled at by Mr. Sabin," we content ourselves by a reference to the article in question, with the remark, which might have been added, that many of the rarest books *were* bought for American collectors. If the library had been sold here, we can confidently assert that the very rarest volumes would never have left the country, and Europeans might have been compelled to satisfy themselves with much less than Americans secured at the late sale. European collectors had the advantage of seeing the books, but American collectors could only send conjectural bids.

The *insinuation of plagiarism* at the end of Mr. Trubner's article may pass for what it is worth.

VALDARFER BOCCACCIO.

In correcting a mistake in the last *BIBLIOPOLIST*—Valdarfer was printed "Valdefar," and the price, instead of £2,250, should have been £2,260—we take the opportunity of reprinting the account of its sale given in the *BOOK HUNTER*, by J. Hill Burton, who, as will be seen, quotes largely from the lengthy but spirited account by Dibdin:—

"Conspicuous beyond all others stands forth the sale of the Roxburghe library, perhaps the most eminent contest of that kind on record. There were of it some ten thousand separate 'lots,' as auctioneers call

them, and almost every one of them was a book of rank and mark in the eyes of the collecting community, and had been, with special pains and care and anxious exertion, drawn into the vortex of that collection. Although it was created by a Duke, yet it has been rumored that most of the books were bargains, and that the noble collector drew largely on a spirit of patient perseverance and enlightened sagacity. The great passion and pursuit of his life having been of so peculiar a character—he was almost as zealous a hunter of deer and wild swans, by the way, as of books, but this was not considered in the least peculiar.

"Scott attributed to an incidental occurrence at his father's table the direction given to the great pursuit of his life. 'Lord Oxford and Lord Sunderland, both famous collectors of the time, dined one day with the second Duke of Roxburghe, when their conversation happened to turn upon the *editio princeps* of Boccaccio, printed in Venice in 1471, and so rare that its very existence was doubted of.' It so happened that the Duke remembered this volume having been offered to him for £100, and he believed he could still trace and secure it: he did so, and laid it before his admiring friends at a subsequent sitting. 'His son, then Marquess of Beaumont, never forgot the little scene upon this occasion, and used to ascribe to it the strong passion which he ever afterwards felt for rare books and editions, and which rendered him one of the most assiduous and judicious collectors that ever formed a sumptuous library.*' And this same Boccaccio was the point of attack which formed the climax in the great contest of the Roxburghe rousp, as the Duke's fellow-countrymen called it.

"But the dignity and power of the historian's narrative cannot be fully appreciated until we find him in the midst of the climax of the contest—the battle, which gradually merged into a single combat, for the possession of the Venetian Boccaccio. According to the established historical practice, we have in the first place a statement of the position taken up by the respective 'forces.'

"At length the moment of sale arrived. Evans prefaced the putting-up of the article by an appropriate oration, in which he expatiated on its extreme rarity, and concluding by informing the company of the regret,

* Article on Pitcairn's *Criminal Trials* in the 21st vol. of *Miscellaneous Prose Works*.

and even anguish of heart, expressed by Mr. Van Praet that such a treasure was not to be found in the Imperial collection at Paris. Silence followed the address of Mr. Evans. On his right hand, leaning against the wall, stood Earl Spencer; a little lower down, and standing at right angles with his Lordship, appeared the Marquess of Blandford. Lord Althorp stood a little backward, to the right of his father, Earl Spencer.

"The first movement of the forces gives the historian an opportunity of dropping a withering sneer at an unfortunate man, so provincial in his notions as to suppose that a hundred pounds or two would be of any avail in such a contest.

"The honor of firing the first shot was due to a gentleman of Shropshire, unused to this species of warfare, and who seemed to recoil from the reverberation of the report himself had made. 'One hundred guineas,' he exclaimed. Again a pause ensued; but anon the biddings rose rapidly to five hundred guineas. Hitherto, however, it was evident that the firing was but masked and desultory. At length all random shots ceased, and the champions before named stood gallantly up to each other, resolving not to flinch from a trial of their respective strengths. *A thousand guineas* were bid by Earl Spencer—to which the Marquess added *ten*. You might have heard a pin drop. All eyes were turned—all breathing well nigh stopped—every sword was put

home within its scabbard—and not a piece of steel was seen to move or to glitter except that which each of these champions brandished in his valorous hand."

"But even this exciting sort of narrative will tire one when it goes on page after page, so that we must take a leap to the conclusion. 'Two thousand two hundred and fifty pounds,' said Lord Spencer. 'The spectators were now absolutely electrified. The Marquess quietly adds his usual *ten*,' and so there an end. 'Mr. Evans, ere his hammer fell, made a short pause—and indeed, as if by something preternatural, the ebony instrument itself seemed to be charmed or suspended in the mid air. However, at last down dropped the hammer.'

"Such a result naturally created excitement beyond the book-collectors' circle, for here was an actual stroke of trade in which a profit of more than two thousand per cent. had been netted. It is easy to believe in Dibdin's statement of the crowds of people who imagined they were possessors of the identical Venetian Boccaccio, and the still larger number who wanted to do a stroke of business with some old volume, endowed with the same rarity and the same or greater intrinsic value. The general excitement created by the dispersal of the Roxburghe collection proved an epoch in literary history, by the establishment of the Roxburghe Club, followed by a series of others, the history of which has to be told farther on.

BOOK NOTICES.

The Mississippi Valley; its Physical Geography, including Sketches of the Topography, Botany, Climate, Geology, and Mineral Resources; and of the Progress and Development in Population and Material Wealth. By J. W. Foster, LL.D. Illustrated by maps and sections. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Company. 1869. 8vo., pp., xvi., 443.

The country included in what is properly called the Mississippi Valley is so vast and so singular, that it is, perhaps, not remarkable that its literature is not equally extensive. The contributions to its physical history and geography may be comprised under the names of Abbot, Ellet, Humphrey,

Squier, and Davis, and that of our author—works of other writers being less scientific than historical. But when we consider the comparatively recent growth of the science of physical geography, the limited literature of the subject becomes the less surprising.

In the present work, the author seems to have availed himself of the researches made by most of his predecessors in the same field of inquiry. These advantages, combined with the result of numerous explorations and many years' study, have given us a "series of graphic sketches of the great phenomena of the region under consideration, in a form which should interest and instruct the general reader, and, at the same time, explain

those natural laws to whose operation these phenomena are due." In this respect the author has succeeded, for we ourselves—one of the "general readers"—have derived much satisfaction from a careful perusal.

The chapters on the Origin of Prairies are especially interesting, as treating of a question as yet undecided. The theory presented seems, to our unscientific minds, a very probable one, as well in its application to the great western plains as to like physical formations all over the world.

We think the author falls into an error in claiming for the generalizations of Blodget a priority as compared with those of Volney. Volney's work was published in 1804, translated in 1805, and reprinted in 1822, while Blodget's *Climatology* was not published till 1857. This is a small matter, but we believe Mr. Russell has very properly credited Volney with these early generalizations.

In the chapter on Trees, the author exhibits a thorough knowledge of their uses, and a love for them which is truly delightful to see. Their wholesale and indiscriminate destruction is very justly censured, and when we consider that, as the author says, "forests exert, in the interior of continents, an influence like that of the sea on the climate of

islands—both water the soil, and thereby insure its fertility," their preservation cannot be too strongly urged.

Of the Geology, which occupies three chapters, it is needless to speak but as adding another to the works Mr. Foster has so ably performed in this department of science. The description of Pictured Rocks of Lake Superior is particularly worthy of attention.

Observations on the Influence of Climate on Man, Origin of Civilization, and Progress of Development, occupy the remaining chapters, and afford new light and information on these interesting topics.

Remarks concerning the "Mound Builders," we think, controvert successfully Mr. Bancroft's statement (*History of the U.S.*, vol. iii., chap. 22), that "the Mississippi Valley has no monuments," by pointing out the location of many, and demonstrating that their builders must have been of a race far superior to the present in the arts of civilization.

It only remains to add that the work is a credit alike to its author and his publishers. The type is the *old style*, printed on good paper, and not crowded. Besides the illustrations, the volume has a very complete Index.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Subscribers would do a service by communicating any Notes or Queries upon the following or other subjects, tending to elicit information on unsettled points in historical literature. The desire of the publishers is to popularize the knowledge of curious and important facts, particularly those of interest to Americans. Though the most space will be given to American subjects, other notes will not be refused. Every reader will occasionally find some knotty point which he would gladly make a note of, and to him we recommend the excellent advice of Captain Cuttle. To these inquiring spirits, we freely offer our pages.

Some of the Notes and Queries in this number should have appeared earlier, and in the same order as they were originally printed, but they were for a time overlooked.

BUCCANEERS.

Allow me to correct a mistake which Mr. Breen has made in his derivation of *Boucan* (*Am. Bib.*, p. 151.)

"*Bucanier* is derived from *Boucan*, a Carib word signifying *smoke*, and is a word as yet used by the Creole negroes of Louisiana, in their patois French. It refers to the smoking of meat for preservation, I think, and not to the more dainty repast on their enemies.

B.

June 8, 1869.

[*"The etymology of the word Buccaneer (says the Edinburgh Encyclopedia) has been traced by Oxmelin, to a custom which prevailed among the original inhabitants of the Caribbee Islands, of roasting their prisoners of war upon frames of clay placed over very strong fires. These clay frames were called barbacoas; the place where they were erected BOUCAN, and the operation boucaner, to roast and smoke. What these savages did to their unfortunate prisoners, the hunters practiced on the animals slain in the chase, and from the practice they derived their name."*

Another authority (Richardson) quotes as follows: "*Boucan*, a wooden gridiron, whereon cannibals broyle pieces of men and other flesh." (Cotgrave.)

"Menage considers the words *Boucan*, *Boucaner*

to be Caribbee Indian; and that hence *Boucanier*, or *Buccanier*, applied to pirates or freebooters, living like wild Indian cannibals, is derived."]

Cannibals.—Your correspondent W. (Vol. i., p. 186) will find the origin of this word in Stillingfleet's *Origines Sacrae*, Part II., Book i. c. i., where there are traced the gradations observed by travellers in the savagery of the several natives of America. Has it been recorded of any people in Europe, Asia, or Africa, that they were addicted to the practice of scalping? T. J.

Practice of Scalping.—Your correspondent T. J. will find in Mr. Layard's *Nineveh and its Remains* (vol. ii. p. 374), the following note:—

"The Scythians *scalped* and *flayed* their enemies, and used their skins as horse trappings."—*Herod* iv. 64. G. R.

Greenock.

Scalping.—Perhaps your correspondent T. J. (vol. ii. p. 12) may recollect the allusion to "scalping" in Psalm lxviii. 21, upon which verse an argument has been based in favour of the supposition, that the aborigines of America are derived from the ten tribes of Israel. J. SANSOM.

Allusion in Peter Martyr.—Mr. Prescott, in his *History of the Conquest of Mexico*, vol. i., p. 389 (ed. 8vo 1843), quotes from Peter Martyr, *De Orbe Novo*, dec. 1. c. 1, the words, "Una illis fuit spes salutis, desperasse de salute," applied to the Spanish invaders of Mexico; and he remarks that "it is said with the classic energy of Tacitus." The expression is classical, but is not derived from Tacitus. The allusion is to the verse of Virgil:—

"Una salus victis nullam sperare salutem."

Æn. ii. 354.
L.

Stars and Stripes of the American Arms.—What is the origin of the American arms, viz., stars and stripes? JARLTZBERG.

"*Speak the Tongue that Shakspeare spoke*."—Can you inform me of the author's name who says:

"They speak the tongue that Shakspeare spoke,
The faith and morals hold that Milton held," &c.?
and was it applied to the early settlers of New England? X.

Practice of Scalping amongst the Scythians—*Scandinavian Mythology*.—In Vol. ii.,

p. 12, I desired to be informed whether this practice has prevailed amongst any people besides the American Indians. As you have established no rule against an inquirer's replying to his own Query, (though, unfortunately for other inquirers, self-imposed by some of your correspondents) I shall avail myself of your permission, and refer those who are interested in the subject to Herodotus, *Melpomene* 64, where they will find that the practice of scalping prevailed amongst the Scythians. This coincidence of manners serves greatly to corroborate the hypothesis that America was peopled originally from the northern parts of the old continent. He has recorded also their horrid custom of drinking the blood of their enemies, and making drinking vessels of their skulls, reminding us of the war-song of the savage of Louisiana:—

"I shall devour their (my enemies') hearts, dry their flesh, drink their blood; I shall tear off their scalps, and make cups of their skulls." (*Boson's Travels*.) "Those," says this traveller through Louisiana, "who think the Tartars have chiefly furnished America with inhabitants, seem to have hit the true opinion; you cannot believe how great the resemblance of the Indian manners is to those of the ancient Scythians; it is found in their religious ceremonies, their customs, and in their food. *Hornius* is full of characteristics that may satisfy your curiosity in this respect, and I desire you to read him."—Vol. i., p. 400.

But the subject of the "*Origines Americane*" is not what I now beg to propose for consideration: it is the tradition-falsifying assertion of Mr. Grenville Pigott, in his *Manual of Scandinavian Mythology* (as quoted by D'Israeli in the *Amenities of English Literature*, vol. i., pp. 51, 52), that the custom with which the Scandinavians were long reproached, of drinking out of the skulls of their enemies, has no other foundation than a blunder of Olaus Wormius, who, translating a passage in the death-song of Regner Lodbrog,—

"Soon shall we drink out of the curved trees of the head,"

turned the trees of the head into a skull, and the skull into a hollow cup; whilst the Scald merely alluded to the branching horns, growing as trees from the heads of animals, that is, the curved horns which formed their drinking cups. T. J.

"*Speak the Tongue that Shakspeare spoke*" (Vol. ii., p. 135).—The lines about which X. asks, are—

"We must be free or die, who speak the tongue
That Shakspeare spake; the faith and morals hold
Which Milton held," &c.

They are in one of Wordsworth's glorious
"Sonnets to Liberty," (the sixteenth), and
belong to *us*, and not to the New-England-
ers. G. N.

Practice of Scalping among the Scythians, &c. (Vol. ii., p. 141).—Your correspondent T. J. will find in Livy, x. 26, that the practice of scalping existed among the Kelts.

"Nec ante ad consules . . . famam ejus cladis
perlatam, quam in conspectu fuere Gallorum equites
pectoribus equorum suspensa gestantes capita, et lan-
ceis infixa ovantesque moris sui carmine."

W. B. D.

The Lost Tribes.—A list of all the theories and publications respecting the ten tribes commonly called the Lost tribes, or any communication concerning them, will much oblige,
JARLTZBERG.

Scalping (Vol. ii., p. 220).—W. B. D. confounds beheading with scalping. In the American war many British soldiers, it was said, walked about without their *scalps*, but not without their heads. SANDVICENSIS.

Mrs. Partington.—Where may I find the original Mrs. Partington, whose maltreatment of the Queen's English maketh the newspapers so witty and merry in these dull days?
IGNORANS.

Mrs. Partington (Vol. ii., p. 377).—IGNORANS no doubt refers to the oft-repeated allusion to "Dame Partington and her mop;" and taking it for granted that he does so, I will enlighten him a little on the subject. The "original Mrs. Partington" was a respectable old lady, living at Sidmouth in Devonshire: her cottage was on the beach, and during an awful storm (that, I think, of Nov. 1824, when some fifty or sixty ships were wrecked at Plymouth) the sea rose to such a height as every now and then to invade the old lady's place of domicile: in fact, almost every wave dashed in at the door. Mrs. Partington, with such help as she could command, with mops and brooms, as fast as the water entered the house, mopped it out again, until at length the waves had the mastery, and the dame was compelled to retire to an upper story of the house. I well recollect reading in the Devonshire newspapers of the time an account

similar to the above: but the first allusion to the circumstance was, I think, made by Lord Brougham in his celebrated speech in the House of Commons on the Reform Bill, in which he compared the Conservative opposition to the bill to be like the opposition of "Dame Partington and her mop, who endeavoured to mop out the waves of the Atlantic."
ROBERT COLE.

Mrs. Partington.—Mr. Greene, the witty editor of the *Boston (N. E.) Post*, is believed to be the original of Mrs. Partington: at least he fathers all her sayings. He began to print them about twelve or fifteen years ago.
G. M. B.

[G. M. B. has also kindly forwarded to us some of "*Mrs. Partington's Queries*," from a recent number of the *Boston Post*, from which we select a couple of specimens, viz. :—

"Whether the Emperor of China is a *porcelain* statue or a mere fiction?"

"Is the *Great Seal* alive, or only stuffed?"]

Mrs. Partington (Vol. ii., pp. 377, 411).—In the Rev. Sydney Smith's speech at Taunton, on the Lords' rejection of the Reform Bill, October, 1831, is this passage:

"The attempt of the Lords to stop the progress of reform, reminds me very forcibly of the great storm of Sidmouth, and of the conduct of the excellent Mrs. Partington on that occasion. In the winter of 1824, there set in a great flood upon that town—the tide rose to an incredible height—the waves rushed in upon the houses, and everything was threatened with destruction. In the midst of this sublime and terrible storm, Dame Partington, who lived upon the beach, was seen at the door of her house with mop and pail, trundling her mop, squeezing out the sea-water, and vigorously pushing away the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic was roused. Mrs. Partington's spirit was up; but I need not tell you that the contest was unequal. The Atlantic Ocean beat Mrs. Partington. She was excellent at a slop or a puddle, but she should not have meddled with a tempest."

This speech is reprinted in the collected editions of Sydney Smith's *Works*. Unless an allusion to Mrs. Partington of a prior date to October, 1831, is produced, we may fairly consider that the celebrity of that lady is owing to Sydney Smith.

I doubt if Lord Brougham ever alluded to Mrs. Partington. Certain it is he never made any speech in the House of Commons on the Reform Bill, as he was raised to the peerage some months before that bill was brought forward.
C. H. COOPER.

Rachel.—In the Oxford Bible (various editions), I note that in Jeremiah xxxi., 15, the name of Rachel is printed "Rahel," though when this prophecy is quoted in Mathew ii., 17, it is printed "Rachel." The American Bibles, so far as examined, have "Rachel" in both places. Can this be a typographical error in the Oxford, which they continue to repeat? S. N.

Philadelphia, February 27, 1869.

Mark for a Dollar.—"T. C." inquires in No. 5 of the *Bibliopolist*, under the head of *Notes and Queries*, What is the origin of a mark for a dollar? I have been informed that as these dollars were United States dollars it was originally designed to have the U and S combined as a sign; this union may be very easily made by drawing a downward curved line from the bottom of one of the two upright parallel lines crossing the letter S to the bottom of the others.

Opelosas, La.

J. P.

More's Utopia.—Further answer to "J. H.," Philadelphia, 24th Feb., p. 90. The *Utopia* was originally written in Latin; and apparently but a few copies were first printed by Theodore Martin, and used as gift copies, or for friendly examination and correction.

These may have had the date 1516 indicated. They may be called the first edition. The work may have been written while More was at Antwerp from May to December, 1515, but perhaps was not completed until after his return to England, and manuscripts then sent to Antwerp.

The copies printed by Martin, when they appeared in England, were disclaimed by More as having been made by his friends from the manuscripts without his participation or sanction, containing errors, etc. We suppose he had not corrected the proofs and did not like the alphabet, etc., put in at Antwerp. He was informed of the demand for the book, and being requested so to do, he united in getting up a corrected edition for sale. The introductory epistle to Egidius in the second edition (usually called the first edition)—an important part of it—excuses his delay in sending it "well nigh after a year's space"—which "must have been looked for within a month," etc. This was printed by Froben, date 1518, and illustrated by Holbein. It is really the most valuable edition intrinsically; although the other as a rare and curious book, with its alphabet,

may have a high fanciful value. It is curious that neither Dibdin, nor Burnet, nor any modern English writer, speaks of having examined the text of the first edition to see precisely how far it was corrected or changed by the second. It is spoken of, as if precisely like the second and *the same type*, etc.

The third edition was printed at Vienna in 1519 with some of the Epigrams of Erasmus. Was this illustrated? This third edition is rare, but not deemed of peculiar value.

The work was soon translated into French, Italian and Dutch, and "became better known and more admired abroad than by the author's own countrymen." We know not from which of the three editions these translations were made. Perhaps from the first.

It is probable there are few copies of the Latin edition—first, second or third—in the United States. Can any reader say where they are? There are descendants not only named More, but Roper, Dering, Minne, Bray, Greenwood, etc.; in fact, a large number.

If "J. H." refers to the first edition of the *Utopia in English*, that is quite a different query. CONSTANTINE CRESACRE.

N. Y., June.

MADOC'S EXPEDITION.

A Traveller informs us that Baron A. von Humboldt urges further search after this expedition in the Welsh records. He thinks the passage is in the *Examin Critique*.

In reference to the discovery of America by Madoc, pp. 7, 12, 25, 57, it may amuse your readers to be informed that Seneca shadows forth such a discovery:—

"Venient annis sæcula seris
Quibus Oceanus vincula rerum
Laxet, et ingens pateat tellus,
Ichthysque novos detegat orbes;
Nec sit terris ultima Thule."

Medea, act ii. ad finem, v. 375.

"A vaticination," says the commentator, "of the Spanish discovery of America." It is certainly a curious passage. C.

At p. 57, "Anglo-Cambrian" refers to the report of the Proceedings of the British Association at Swansea, in Aug. 1848, extracted from the *Athenæum* newspaper. In the course of a discussion which took place on Prof. Elton's address, it was observed (if I

recollect rightly) by the learned Dr. Latham, that a vocabulary of the so-called Welsh-Indian dialect has been formed, and that it contains *no trace* of any Celtic root.

December 10, 1849.

J. M. T.

Lord Chatham's Speech on the American Stamp Act.—When I read the question of your correspondent (in No. 1, p. 12,) on this subject, I saw at once its importance; for, if my Lord Brougham's statements were correct, our historians must forthwith re-write a somewhat important chapter in our history. I felt assured, however, that it was not correct; and the result of a somewhat tedious search is as I had anticipated. His lordship had made an error in the date, and 1764 should be 1766. The authority, not acknowledged by his lordship was, no doubt, the *Parliamentary History of 1766* (vol. xvi. p. 96), where your correspondent will find the statement, which of course, the date being correctly given, contains nothing that is not consistent with known facts.

C.

BURNING THE DEAD.

Can any of your readers, who may have attended particularly to the funeral customs of different peoples, inform me whether the practice of burning the dead has ever been in vogue amongst any people excepting inhabitants of Europe and Asia? I incline to the opinion that this practice has been limited to people of Indo-Germanic or Japetic race, and I shall be obliged by any references in favour of or opposed to this view.

T.

Burning the Dead.—"T." will find some information on this subject in Sir Thomas

Browne's *Hydriotaphia*, chap. i., which appears to favour his view except in the following extract:—

"The same practice extended also far west, and besides Heruleans, Getes, and Thracians, was in use with most of the Celts, Sarmatians, Germans, Gauls, Danes, Swedes, Norwegians; not to omit some use thereof among Carthaginians, and Americans."

The Carthaginians most probably received the custom from their ancestors the Phœnicians, but where did the Americans get it?

HENRY ST. CHAD.

Corpus Christi Hall, Maidstone, Feb. 8, 1850.

Memoirs of an American Lady.—Are the *Memoirs of an American Lady* out of print? They were written by Mrs. Grant, of Laggan, the authoress of *Letters from the Mountains*, and of whom some very interesting memoirs have lately been published by her son.

NEMO.

America known to the Ancients.—I have a note on the following references, as illustrating the passage quoted by "C." (No. 7, p. 107), and countenancing the idea that the existence of America was at least suspected by the ancients. As I have not had an opportunity of consulting the authorities myself, I cannot tell how far they may affect the point in question; and I fear the references are not as accurate as might be wished, but I shall be truly glad if they prove at all useful:—Diodorus Siculus, *Bibl.* lib. iv. pp. 299, 300. edit. Rhodoman; Apuleius, *De Mund. Oper.* vol. ii. p. 122; *Avitus in Senec. Suasor.*; Horn, *De Origin. Americ.* lib. i. c. 10. p. 57.

G. WILLIAM SKYRING.

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